

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application, of which, claims 22-35 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-21 presently stand rejected. Claims 1 and 2 are amended by this paper. Support for amended claims 1 and 2 may be found throughout the application and at least, in particular, at paragraphs 25 through 27.

In the Office action mailed on December 1, 2004, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, for lack of positive antecedent basis. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, 16-19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Letendre et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,214,036 hereinafter "Letendre"). Additionally, claims 2, 6, 15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Letendre.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the amendments presented herein and the arguments below. The outstanding rejections are addressed in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

According to the Office Action, claim 2 presently stands rejected for failing to recite a positive antecedent basis. Applicants have amended the claim to attend to the rejection and, therefore, respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

According to the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, 16-19 and 21 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Letendre.

Amended claim 1 is directed to an over-the-wire interlock attachment/detachment mechanism for a medical implant including a male locking body member, a flexible locking support, and a female lock receiving member, wherein one of the male locking body members and female lock receiving members comprises an alignment extension, while the other comprises an extension receiving cut-out and spacer sections which terminate in inclined outer end surfaces.

Applicants submit that in contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Letendre does not teach or suggest the use of spacer sections with inclined outer end surfaces on Letendre's delivery apparatus 40 (see copy of FIG. 2 enclosed with the Office Action). In contrast to Applicants' claimed mechanism, an operator using Letendre's delivery apparatus must have precise alignment of Letendre's stent and delivery apparatus in order to recapture the stent. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Letendre fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-5, 7-14, 16-19 and 21, as amended, are not anticipated by Letendre and, therefore, respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

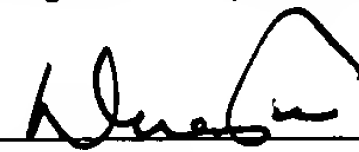
Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

According to the Office Action, claims 2, 6, 15 and 20 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Letendre. Claims 2, 6, 15, and 20 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for all of the reasons provided above for patentability of amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Summary

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application and claims 1-21 in light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, and respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions about this paper. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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